CHAPTER 148

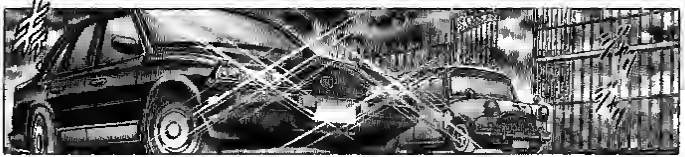
START OF THE DUEL

IT'S STRANGE
WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU, MR SAEBA?
...
THE MAN WHO WILL FIGHT UMI-BOZU FOR HIS LIFE,AND YOU, THE ONE WHO LOVES HIM TO THE DEATH, ARE DRIVING THERE TOGETHER.

THERE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU
HUH?
HEY... MR SAEBA..
EH!?
MR SAEBA THE GIRL THAT YOU DATED AT NIGHT LAST TIME ..DO YOU KNOW THAT WAS KAORI?
DATED KAORI? UP TILL NOW I HAVEN'T DONE IT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
HEHEHE...
WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THAT AT THIS TIME? ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MIKI?

TO: RYO WHO HAS NO CONCEPT OF TIME!
HOPING THIS WILL HELP YOU REFORM AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
KAORI ♡
.....
HIDEYUKI ANJYURA
1956—1985

BOTH SIBLINGS ARE SUCH TROUBLESOME PARTNERS..
HIDEYUKI ALSO SAID THAT ALOT OF TIMES IN THE PAST... SCOLDED ME FOR HAVING LOUSY SENSE OF TIME...



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DID HE CALLED YOU HERE TO STOP THE DUEL? HE'S REALLY TOO DESPICABLE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
RIGHT... ITS MR SAEBA.
MIKI !?
...
NO...
MIKI ...
I CAME TO SEE... THE CONCLUSION OF THIS.
I'M NOT HERE TO STOP HIM, EVEN IF I AM I CAN'T STOP THIS...
...
...

SAEBA !
ARRIVE JUST IN TIME. EVEN THE BUTTOCKS .NO ONLOOKERS ARE ALSO PRESENT
KYAA !?
WHERE IS KAORI?
IT SEEMS TH/T ONE OF THE PLAYERS IS MISSING.
FUFU. DON'T WORRY I KEPT MY WORD SHE'S OVER THERE
STOP THIS FOOLISH DUEL!
RYO!

WELL, SHALL WE START, UMIBOZU?
RYO
I GUESS, IT'LL SAVE TIME CARRYING THE BODY OF WHICHEVER ONE OF US DIES.
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO HAVE CHOSEN A GRAVEYARD FOR A DUEL, ISN'T IT?
HEHE

I ESPECIALLY DESPISE YOUR CHEEKY SMILING.
ARGH... YOU SEE IT?
THE RULES OF THIS DUEL ARE SIMPLE.
BOTH OF YOU WILL ENTER THE GRAVEYARD. GO YOUR OWN WAY. FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW, I'LL HONK THE HORN OF MY CAR. THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO START.
AFTER THAT, YOU KEEP ON FIGHTING UNTIL ONE OF YOU DIES. UNDERSTOOD?
...

RYO...
...
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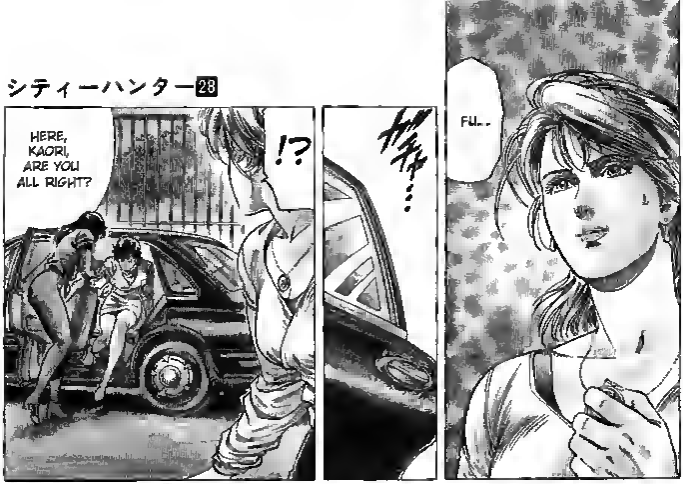
HERE, KAORI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!?
ガチャ…
FU...

SAEBA HAS COME TO DUEL AS PROMISED! KAORI IS FREE TO LEAVE NOW!
DON'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!

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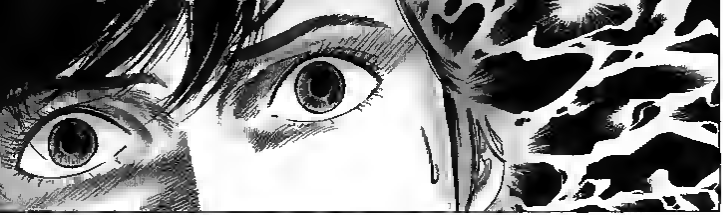
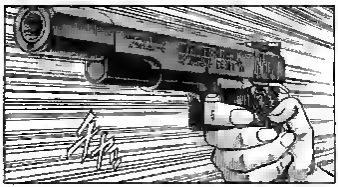
HOP!





KAORI!
RYO!

DON'T MOVE!

MS SONIA...

IF SAEBA SURVIVES,
I'LL MAKE HIM FEEL THE SAME PAIN I'VE BEEN SUFFERING.

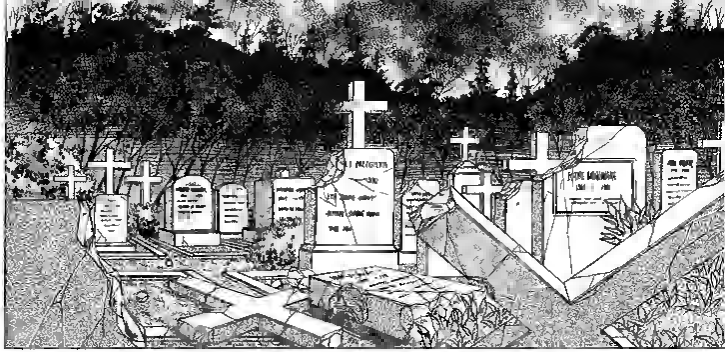
YOU STILL HAVE VALLIE TO ME
IF YOU WERE KILLED GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS, I'D BE IN TROUBLE.
SONIA...

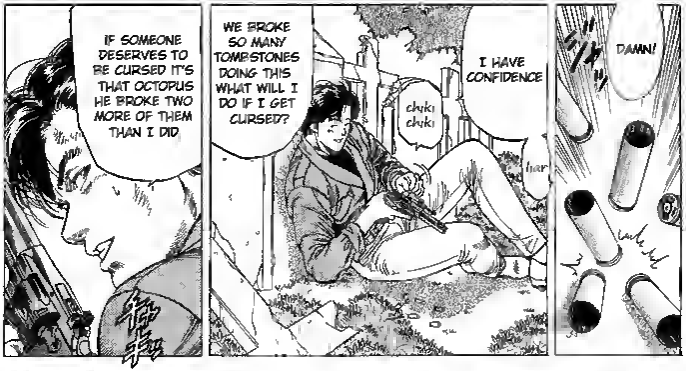
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING OF HOW SAEBA FEELS!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
MIKI?
HE WAS LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FIRE HIS GUN
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HE FELT WHEN HE SHOT HIS OWN PARTNER?!

AND KENNY WAS THE ONE WHO CHALLENGED HIM TO THE DUEL!
SAEBA KILLED KENNY IN A DUEL.
THAT PERSON WHO BETRAYS HIS FRIENDS, WHATEVER HIS FEELINGS IS I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
SAEBA'S FEELINGS?
...
OR I HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH WARMUPS?
pop
AM I NOT GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE RECENTLY.
chik
crack
CHIK!
CHIK!

YOU'RE ALREADY OUT OF BREATH? IT IS JUST BEGINNING!
WAH!
BASTARD! YOU'RE JUST TOO SLOW. YOU MISS ME ENTIRELY!
HMPH! YOU CAN'T SAY THAT ABOUT ME
WHERE ARE YOU AIMING? I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU GET CURSED FOR DOING THIS!
AFTER YOU'RE IN HEAVEN, YOU SHOULD SAY SORRY TO THE OWNERS OF THOSE GRAVES!
RIGHT! WHEN YOU'RE IN HELL YOU CAN'T SAY YOU'RE SORRY EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO

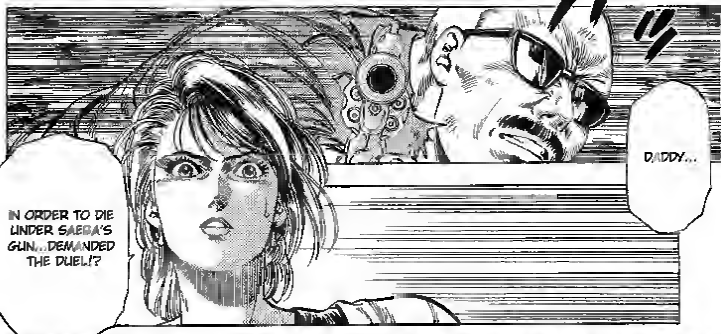
IDIOT! FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU ONE SHOULDN'T EXPECT TOO MUCH! YOU BEING COVERED IN DEBT!
CAN YOU PAY THE COST OF REPAIRING THOSE TOMBSTONES FROM YOUR POCKET?
SAEBA TOLD ME NOT TO TELL ANYBODY, BUT.
MY PAPA CHALLENGED SAEBA TO A DUEL?
IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE KENNY HAD TO CHALLENGE SAEBA TO A DUEL...HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DIE UNDER SAEBA'S GUN.

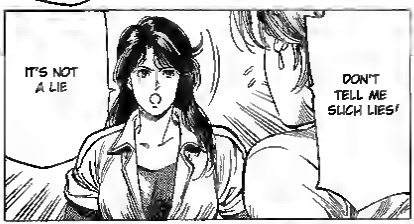



IF SOMEONE DESERVES TO BE CURSED IT'S THAT OCTOPUS HE BROKE TWO MORE OF THEM THAN I DID.
WE BROKE SO MANY TOMBSTONES DOING THIS WHAT WILL I DO IF I GET CURSED?
I HAVE CONFIDENCE
chiki chiki
DAMN!

AS EXPECTED HE'S THERE!
WAH.
FUFU...THIS TIME HE BROKE THREE MORE THAN I DID! WAIT TO GET CURSED.

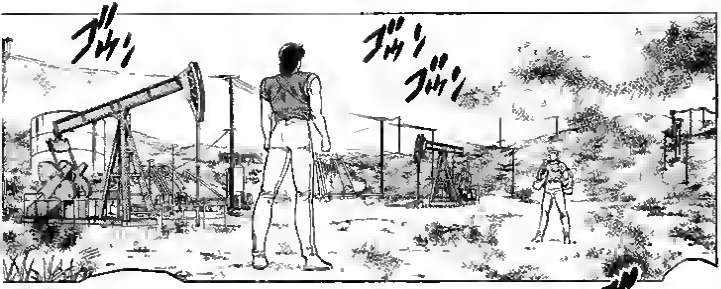
…
YOKO TAMA


DADDY...
IN ORDER TO DIE UNDER SAEBA'S GUN...DEMANDED THE DUEL!?


IT'S NOT A LIE
DON'T TELL ME SUCH LIES!

...
IN ORDER TO PROTECT MY LIFE!?

THEN
WHAT IS GOING ON?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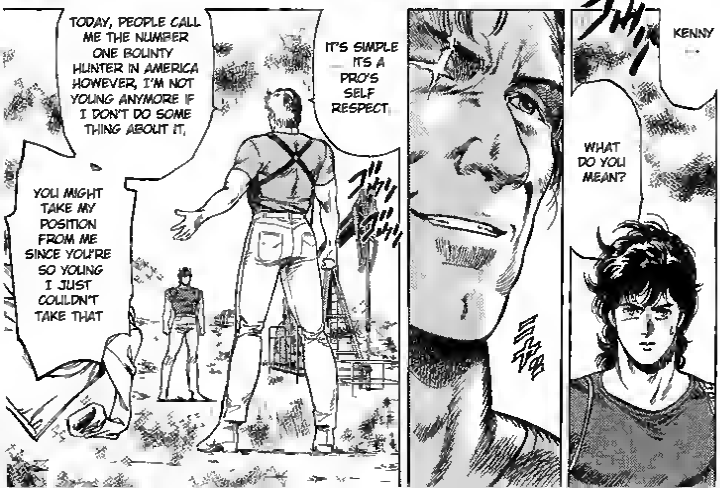
TODAY, PEOPLE CALL ME THE NUMBER ONE BOUNTY HUNTER IN AMERICA HOWEVER, I'M NOT YOUNG ANYMORE IF I DON'T DO SOME THING ABOUT IT,
YOU MIGHT TAKE MY POSITION FROM ME SINCE YOU'RE SO YOUNG I JUST COULDN'T TAKE THAT
IT'S SIMPLE — IT'S A PRO'S SELF RESPECT
ブーン
ブーン
KENNY ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LETS SEE WHO'S SKILL IS GREATER!
PREPARE YOURSELF, RYO!
NO WAY... I CAN'T BELIEVE... YOU'RE... DOING THIS
NO!
IF SHE LOSES YOU, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HER? YOU'RE THE ONLY RELATIVE SHE HAS!
THINK ABOUT SONIA.
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YOUNG MAN!
LET ME SHATTER THAT CONFIDENCE OF YOURS
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN AGAINST ME?
WHAT YOU JUST SAID PROVES THAT YOU BADLY UNDER-ESTIMATE ME
フフ

KENNY!

URGH
URGH

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
KENNY...
...
KENNY.

KENNY!
GOOD JOB.
RYO.
I..
SORRY, KENNY.
ALL RIGHT..
IF I DON'T KILL YOU.. THEY WILL KILL MY DAUGHTER.
!!
I HAVE BEEN THREATEN BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM A SYNDICATE...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
FOR SONIA AS WELL...

WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A FOOLISH THING!
ALTHOUGH I WASN'T ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR DEMAND... BUT BY DYING LIKE THIS, THEY WON'T GO ON HARMING MY DAUGHTER..
THAT'S WHY OTHER THAN CHALLENGING YOU TO A DUEL WHILE BEGGING TO DIE, THERE IS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE...
THE OPPONENT IS TOO LARGE OF AN ORGANIZATION... IF I WERE THE ONLY PERSON I MIGHT BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY FROM THEM... BUT IF I REFUSED, I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO PROTECT MY DAUGHTER...
PLEASE DON'T LET SONIA GET INVOLVED IN THE UNDERGROUND WORLD... I WISHED FOR HER... TO ENJOY AN ORDINARY LIFE...
YOU BETTER QUICKLY LEAVE THIS COUNTRY... BUT I HAVE A LAST FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE THE BEST FATHER FOR SONIA!
I DON'T WANT HER TO KNOW THAT HER GOOD FOR NOTHING FATHER CAN ONLY DIE IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS OWN DAUGHTER.. COUGH COUGH
ALSO TELL HER THAT I DIED IN AN ACCIDENT...
I UNDERSTAND
KENNY...
WHAT I SAID AWHILE AGO WAS TRUE... I DIDN'T WANT TO PASS MY POSITION AS NUMBER ONE ON TO YOU... I'M A VERY SMALL-MINDED MAN..
NO... I'M JUST A MISERABLE MAN...

COUGH COUGH. . A MAN LIKE ME SHOULDN'T HAVE LIVED SO CLOSE TO HIS DAUGHTER.
KENNY!?
I CAN'T PROTECT HER EXCEPT
BY DYING FOR MY LOVED ONE
KENNY!?
KENNY...

IT'S A BIG LIE!
IT CAN'T BE...
HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FEEL HURT THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING...
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND MR SAEBA'S SUFFERING?
...
IT HAS TO BE A GIANT LIE CREATED BY SAEBA! THAT MUST BE IT!
...
WHY CAN'T YOU TRUST SAEBA?!
YOU KNOW THAT HE'S NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD LIE, DON'T YOU?
ALL THAT HE'S DONE WAS TO LET YOU ENJOY LIVING AN ORDINARY LIFE THAT HE EVEN DISAPPEARED FROM YOU
...

AH...
AH...
BELIEVE HIM, SONIA.
AH...
LAST TIME I SAW DADDY THAT MORNING
AH...
THAT TIME DADDY DIED
SO SUDDENLY, DADDY?
BELIEVE RYO? WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, BELIEVE RYO, SONIA
REGARDLESS,
AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE HIM, YOU WILL LIVE A HAPPY LIFE UNDERSTAND, SONIA?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, BELIEVE HIM

NEXT TO YOU, HE'S BEEN THE KINDEST TO ME, DADDY SO I'LL ALWAYS BELIEVE RYO.
I LIKE RYO.
IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS
DADDY, WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS WITH SUCH A SERIOUS FACE?
THAT'S GOOD.
GOOD.
DADDY

IT CAN'T BE... DADDY...
RYO...
I...
SONIA!?
MIKI!
!!

I...
I...
RYO...

WAIT, MS SONIA!

SONIA !?

YOU'RE LIABLE TO IMPLICATE BOTH OF THEM.
YOU CAN'T GO IN NOW!

BUT MIKI, SONIA...
...

DADDY HAD TO DUEL WITH HIS PARTNER AND BEST FRIEND?
HOW COULD THIS HAPPENED?... BECAUSE OF ME

STOP! BOTH OF YOU.
NOOOO.
HOW... COULD THIS HAPPEN-ED...
ARE IN A DUEL BECAUSE OF ME!
AND THIS TIME, FALCON "AND RYO.
ドゥッ
ドゥッ
HAA...
SONIA !?
HAA...
!?

SONIA! WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
HAA
HAA
S-
HAA
STOP...
!?
SONIA
...
STOP! THE DUEL IS CANCELLED
I'M WITHDRAWING MY REQUEST, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL RYO. PLEASE END THE DUEL.
!?
WE CAN'T
CANCEL IT NOW.

LET ME GO! MIKI.

NO!
WE CAN'T STOP THEM FROM DOING THIS!

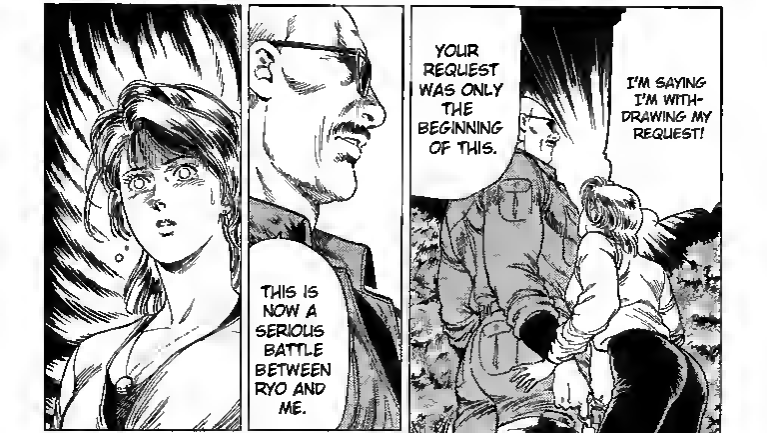
KAORI!
I CAN STILL MAKE IT. I HAVE TO STOP THEM, BESIDES SONIA'S ALSO...

...

WHY CAN'T WE... STOP THEM!?
THEY'RE KILLING EACH OTHER! AREN'T YOU CONCERNED?

W-
WHY?

...
WHY?


I'M SAYING I'M WITH-DRAWING MY REQUEST!
YOUR REQUEST WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THIS.
THIS IS NOW A SERIOUS BATTLE BETWEEN RYO AND ME.

..
THEN WHY DO YOU INSIST ON HAVING THIS DUEL!?
WHY? YOU TWO ARE BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?

!?
HMPH... EVEN I DON'T KNOW... BUT...
FOR RESPECT... THE PRIDE OF A MAN... AM I JUST MAKING EXCUSES..

AND THIS IS ALSO MY ONLY CHANCE... TO FIGHT AGAINST HIM..
BECAUSE OF THE OLD WOUND TO MY EYES

RYO... IS PROBABLY THE SAME AS I AM...

MAYBE... IT'S MY BOILING BLOOD THAT MAKES ME DO SO...
FOR US THAT FOUGHT FOR OUR ENTIRE LIVES, ENCOUNTERING A REAL SKILLED OPPONENT IS THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES MY BLOOD SURGED...

...

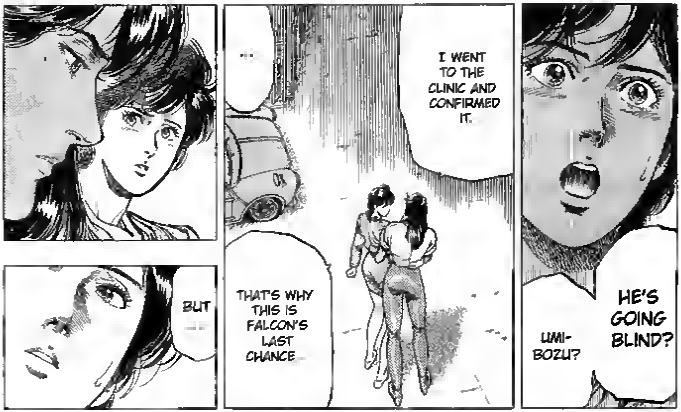
I WILL BE BLIND SOON...
!!
...
...
GO, OR YOU MIGHT BE HIT BY A STRAY BULLET.

NO!
AH..
I DON'T WANT TO SEE A REPEAT OF DADDY AND RYO'S TRAGEDY!
SONIA!
EVEN IF I NEED TO SHOOT YOUR RIGHT ARM, I WILL STOP YOUR DUEL!

!?
KYAA !
RYO !?

SONIA!
NO! STOP!
FORGIVE ME, SONIA.
WHY...
RYO ..
A WHILE AGO... HE MISS ME AND HIT SONIA'S GUN...
OR..

DADDY...


...
I WENT TO THE CLINIC AND CONFIRMED IT.
UMI-BOZU?
HE'S GOING BLIND?
BUT...
THAT'S WHY THIS IS FALCON'S LAST CHANCE

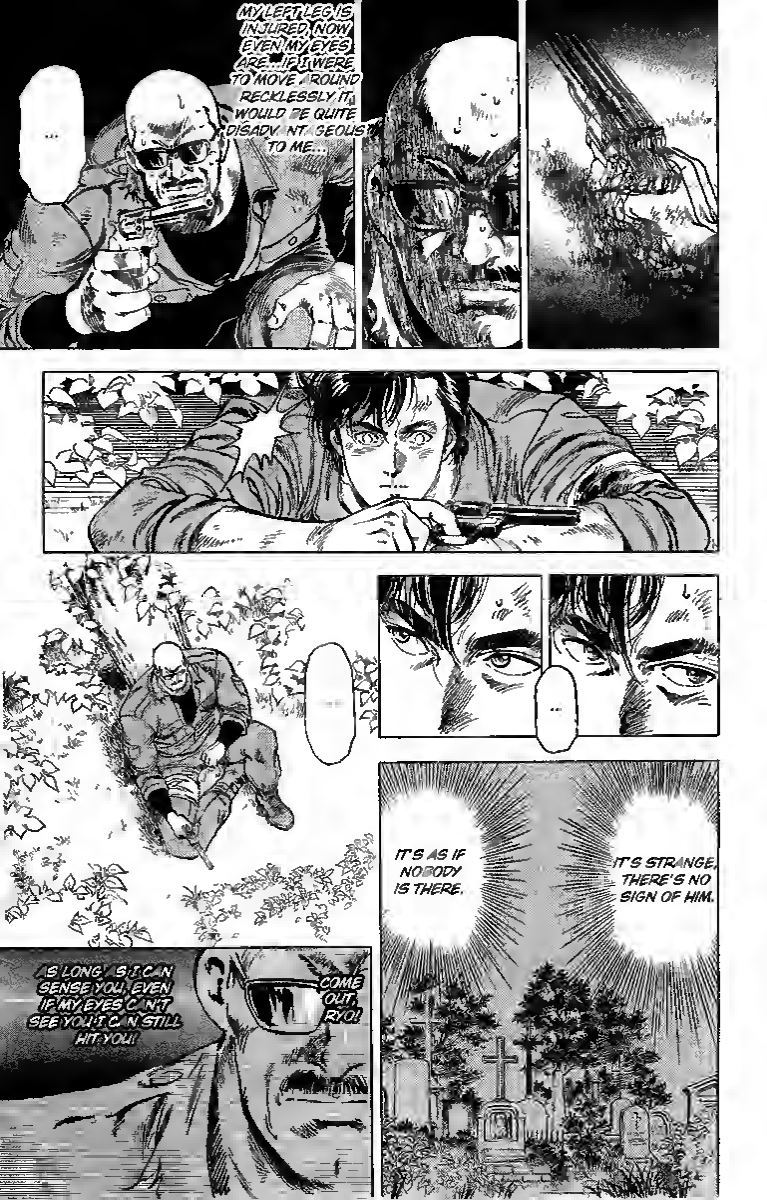
ONE OF THEM WILL DIE!
WITH THIS DUEL... THEY'RE KILLING EACH OTHER.

BUT I ALSO UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S FEELING, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
OF COURSE, I KNOW THAT!
MIKI...

RYO... SONIA WASN'T ABLE TO STOP THEM?

MIKI
FALCON! I BEG OF YOU, PLEASE STOP.
PLEASE STOP!!
H"H"...
I MUST END THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I CAN'T DRAG THIS ON.
HMPH! I'M ALMOST OUT OF BULLETS!

IS IT BECAUSE I'M SHOT IN THE LEG? IT'S NOT DOING AS IT'S TOLD...
DAMN!
URGH!?
HUH!?
URGH!?
ARGH...
ARGH!?
IN THIS SITUATION?
COULD IT BE...
HMPH!


MY LEFT LEG IS INJURED, NOW EVEN MY EYES ARE... IF I WERE TO MOVE AROUND RECKLESSLY, IT WOULD BE QUITE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO ME...
...
...
...
AS LONG AS I CAN SENSE YOU, EVEN IF MY EYES CAN'T SEE YOU, I CAN STILL HIT YOU!!
COME OUT, RYO!!
IT'S AS IF NOBODY IS THERE.
IT'S STRANGE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM.

WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS? THIS STRATEGY IS NOT LIKE THE USUAL WHERE HE TAKES THE INITIATIVE AND ATTACKS!
YOU PLANNING ON A DRAWN OUT BATTLE? HE'S WAITING FOR ME TO GET IMPATIENT AND SHOOT ME WHILE I GO OUT AND SEARCH FOR HIM.
A DRAWN OUT BATTLE WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO ME...
EVEN IF I WERE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, BUT WITH THIS WOUND IN MY ARM BLEEDING CONSTANTLY...
AND AFFIRM THAT GUY'S POSITION... THEN ATTACK!
ALTHOUGH DANGEROUS, I ONLY HAVE TO DO MY BEST AND MOVE AROUND SILENTLY...
WHOEVER FIRST FINDS THE OTHER PARTY'S POSITION...
WINS!
ズズ...

WHAT HAPPENED? THE GUN SHOTS HAVE BEEN QUIET FOR QUITE SOME TIME?
...
!?
I...SENSE... BOTH OF THEIR MENACING AURA HAVE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED!

FIGHT...
FIGHT... TO...A STAND-STILL?
IMPOSSIBLE, BOTH OF THEM COULDN'T HAVE
BOTH OF THEM SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEAR TOGETHER
RYO.
RYOOO!

COULD IT BE NOT ONLY IS IT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF MY BROTHER, IT WILL ALSO BE RYO'S? HOW'S IT POSSIBLE!
!! IMPOSSIBLE MY BIRTHDAY

KAORI
?

DON'T! DON'T COME OVER HERE!
KAORI !?
RYO!
RYO, WHERE ...RE YOU?
RYO!
I'VE GOT YOU,

SMITH&WESSON
IT'S DANGEROUS KAORI! DON'T COME TO THE GRAVEYARD!
DON'T COME OVER!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WHERE? WHERE ARE YOU?
RYO!